

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE'S  
DEPARTURE REMARKS AT MERIDA AIRPORT, SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 22, 1978

1. WE NOW RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AND WE DO  
SO WITH A FULL HEART AND WITH DEEP APPRECIATION FOR  
THE MARVELOUS SENSE OF WARMTH, KINDNESS AND  
DECENCY THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO US AND TO THE AMERICAN  
PARTY DURING THESE PAST THREE DAYS IN MEXICO.

2. WE HAD OUTSTANDING TALKS WITH YOUR PRESIDENT  
LOPEZ PORTILLO AND WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH  
WE ARE ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL; AND THIS PAST DAY AND A  
HALF IN YUCATAN IS SOMETHING THAT THE MONDALE FAMILY  
WILL NEVER FORGET.

3. WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BEAUTY OF MERIDA  
AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJESTY AND MYSTERY AND  
EXCITEMENT OF UXMAL AND CHICHEN ITZA; AND IT IS NO  
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WONDER THAT THIS AREA IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE GREAT  
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF THE WORLD, AND THERE'S PERHAPS  
NO AREA WHICH IS FULL OF MORE INTEREST AND EXCITE-  
MENT FOR STUDENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY THAN THE AREAS THAT  
WE'VE JUST VISITED.

4. I PARTICULARLY WISH TO THANK THE GOVERNOR OF

YUCATAN, MR. LUNA KAN, AND HIS WIFE FOR BEING WITH US THROUGH THIS ENTIRE TRIP. YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AREA, OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, OF YOUR PEOPLE, AND WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FINE GOVERNOR AND HIS WIFE FOR BEING SO KIND TO US. WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO YOUR OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. MARGAIN, AND HIS WIFE, FOR BEING WILLING TO SPEND THIS ENTIRE PERIOD WITH US. AND, OF COURSE, A SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR REMARKABLE AND GIFTED AND ABLE FOREIGN MINISTER, SANTIAGO ROEL, AND HIS WIFE GLORIA, FOR BEING WITH US DURING THIS ENTIRE VISIT. I THINK IT'S NOT ONLY A VERY GENEROUS THING THEY'VE DONE, BUT A VERY TOUCHING THING TO HAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH A VISITOR. AND WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THE GENEROSITY OF THAT REMARKABLE COUPLE.

5. WHEN THE FORMER FIRST LADY, MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON, HEARD THAT WE WERE COMING TO YUCATAN, SHE SAID: "IF YOU GO, YOU BY ALL MEANS MUST ASK VICTOR SEGOVIA TO SERVE AS YOUR GUIDE." AND WE TOOK HER ADVICE, CALLED AND PLEADED FOR VICTOR TO COME WITH US. HE DID. I BELIEVE HE'S THE BEST GUIDE AND ARCHAEOLOGIST IN THE WORLD.

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6. I RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, NOT ONLY HAVING SEEN THESE MARVELOUS RUINS, BUT I AM NOW AN EXPERT MYSELF.

7. WE HAVE A FEW MOMENTOES FROM OUR OWN COUNTRY THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IN APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND MR. SEGOVIA.

8. THIS IS A BOOK OF PICTURES OF OUR COUNTRY, MR. GOVERNOR, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THAT FROM US AS A GIFT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO YOU AND YOUR LOVELY WIFE IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GRACIOUSNESS ON THIS MARVELOUS VISIT.

9. THIS IS A BOOK, MR. SEGOVIA, OF AN INSTITUTION IN OUR COUNTRY I KNOW YOU'RE VERY FAMILIAR WITH, AND OF WHICH WE ARE VERY, VERY PROUD, THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WHICH HOUSES THE MANY TREASURES OF MY COUNTRY; AND WE GIVE IT TO YOU WITH A HEART FILLED WITH APPRECIATION.

10. AND THERE ARE TWO GIFTS THAT WE'RE GOING TO

GIVE TO THE ROELS. ONE IS A BOOK THAT I'VE WRITTEN,  
THAT NO ONE HAS READ, BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS  
PROMISED TO DO SO; AND THE OTHER TO GLORIA ROEL,  
TO WHOM WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE. MUCHAS GRACIAS.  
LUCEY

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